

North Carolina School Health Program Manual

Section A History of the School Health Program In North Carolina

History

In April 2005, a new law addressing the **care of school children with asthma or students subject to anaphylactic reactions** was passed by the General Assembly. It required the local boards of education to adopt a policy authorizing a student with asthma or a student subject to anaphylactic reactions, or both, to possess and self-administer asthma medication on school property during the school day, at school-sponsored activities, or while in transit to or from school or school-sponsored events. As used in this section, “asthma medication” means a medicine prescribed for the treatment of asthma or anaphylactic reactions and includes a prescribed asthma inhaler or epinephrine auto-injector. The policy shall include a requirement that the student’s parent or guardian provide to the school:

- Written authorization from the student’s parent
- Written statement from the student’s health care practitioner verifying that the student has asthma or an allergy that could result in an anaphylactic reaction
- Written prescription from the health care practitioner
- Written statement from the student’s health care practitioner that the student understands, has been instructed in self-administration for the asthma medication, and has demonstrated the skill level necessary to use the asthma medication and delivery device.
- A written treatment plan and written emergency protocol formulated by the health care practitioner who prescribed the medicine for managing the student's asthma or anaphylaxis episodes and for medication use by the student.
- A statement provided by the school and signed by the student's parent or guardian acknowledging that the local school administrative unit and its employees and agents are not liable for an injury arising from a student's possession and self-administration of asthma medication.

Other requirements necessary to comply with state and federal laws related to asthma and anaphylaxis medications can be found in Section Five of this manual.

More school nurses were provided by the State of North Carolina in 2006, when then-Governor Michael Easley added 100 school nurses as part of **Child and Family Support Teams** in the schools. The initiative provided recurring state funds to team 100 school nurse positions with an equal number of school social workers at 103 schools in 21 school districts across the state. The purpose of the program was to provide school based professionals to screen, identify and intervene for children who are potentially at risk of academic failure or out-of-home placement due to physical, social, legal, emotional, or developmental factors.